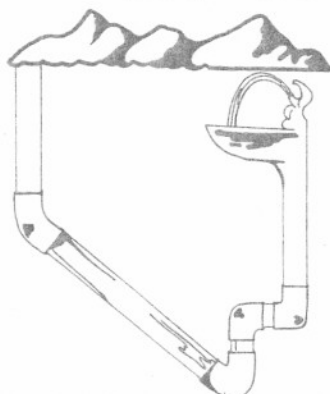


# Water Lines



**Water Lines** is the resource newsletter and calendar of the Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition.

Volume 12 Winter 2003-2004 issue

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## Special Insert Sources of Infrastructure Financing & Assistance

Rural Community Assistance Corporation funds *Water Lines* through a contract with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Editor, Abigail Johnson, RCAC

Editor and Production,  
Julia Helmreich, RCAC

## Featured System: City of Lovelock

By Kirk Peterson, SPB Utilities

The City of Lovelock, located in Pershing County, was incorporated in 1917. In the first few years, the city could hardly cover its expenses, but by 1920 the city had reached an all-time high population of 2,803 residents. Over the years the city's population declined and then rose again, and by 1999 Lovelock had approximately 2,400 residents. Today the city is home to roughly 2,000 residents.

Lovelock's first sewage collection system was installed in 1918; it was upgraded and enlarged in 1930. Sewage treatment was provided by an Imhoff tank, which is no longer in use. The Imhoff tank was later replaced with aerated stabilization ponds. The four-pond system was built partially above

ground and required raw sewage influent pumping.

### ★ Featured System

A cross-town interceptor was later constructed to handle growth on the north side of town; the interceptor terminates at a lift station about half a mile from the treatment plant. Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps are used to lift the sewage to the treatment plant.

For some time the operators noticed that there were spikes in the raw sewage flow during wet weather or when irrigating near the plant site.

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded camera inspection

(Continued on page 4)

## Training Coalition elects new board members

The Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition recently elected new board members. The diverse group of new members brings a wealth of combined experience to the Coalition.

### Bob Foerster, Board Chair

Bob Foerster is a Training Specialist with Nevada Rural Water Association's (NvRWA) Training and Technical Assistance program. He has been with NvRWA for more than three years and has 20 plus years experience in the water and wastewater industry. He has worked for a variety of utilities and private operation and maintenance (O&M) companies. Foerster's experience includes operations and maintenance, laboratory work, supervision, facilities evaluations and technical writing. He worked on overseas assignments in the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines as well. Foerster

taught high school biology in Jamaica and water technology at the community college level. More recently, he and his wife worked in Haifa, Israel, where he was a maintenance supervisor.



Bob Foerster

Currently, Nevada's communities are served by expanding training opportunities available to wastewater systems; in the future, solid waste/landfill operations also may require certification. Foerster sees a long-term goal for the Coalition in laying the groundwork to include this closely related area.

(Continued on page 2)

## New board

(continued from page 1)

### Cameron McKay

Cameron McKay has been in the water treatment/distribution business for the last 11 years. He began his career as an operator for Kingsbury General Improvement District and worked there for seven years. He then joined the Round Hill General Improvement District in 1999 as the District Manager.

McKay also is on the Advisory Board to the BHPS on Certification of Operators of Public Water Systems.

He joined the Coalition board in response to changes to the certification requirements for operators in the water industry. Some of these changes will require operators to attain the next grade level to meet the standards. He would like to see a statewide use of existing community colleges and other facilities to bring all of Nevada's operators to the proper grade levels, so that the water systems do not have to bring in someone from outside to keep their systems running.

### Mark Walker

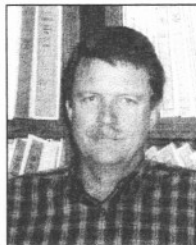
Mark Walker is an associate professor at University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. He manages the videoconferencing workshops that have been used for Nevada operator training in rural areas since 1998. The program has reached more than 1,000 participants during 26 workshops. By serving on the Coalition board, Walker continues to help provide the highest quality operator training, and he hopes to participate in Coalition projects to meet operator needs.



Mark Walker

### Kirk Peterson

Kirk Peterson began his career in 1970 with Xenia Public Works Department in Ohio. After five years with Xenia, he took a job with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Department. In 1977, he moved to Lake Tahoe and took a supervisory position with Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency's new advanced wastewater treatment system plant.



Kirk Peterson

In 1983, he began SPB Utility Services, Inc. with George Shaw, a Professional Engineer. The business has since moved into private ownership of a small water utility in Winnemucca, Nevada. Peterson also has been the 104(g) Circuit Rider for the state of Nevada for the last 18 years.

Peterson joined the Coalition board to help advance the profession for water and wastewater operators by working closely with others in what can be a challenging but rewarding industry.

### Dean Adams

Dr. Dean Adams has been in the environmental engineering field since 1972. Currently, he is involved in numerous water and wastewater research projects. Adams has published extensively, including *Water and Wastewater Examination* (CRC Press), and has presented and copresented more than 130 papers.



Dean Adams

Adams was an instructor, researcher and administrator at Utah State University for 13 years; and he was director of the Center for the Management, Protection and Utilization of Water Resources at Tennessee Technological University for eight years. He has been a faculty member at the UNR since 1992 and is currently a professor and director in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department.

Through the Coalition board, Adams will provide a vital link from academia to working operators. ♠



## New Nevada operators certified

These operators passed entry level water certification exams for distribution and treatment grades 1 & 2. Congratulations to all!

### Distribution grades 1 & 2

Tom Clifton, D-1; Allen Dodson, D-1; Jamie Doschadis, D-1; Michael Dudley, D-1; Stephen Fehsal, D-1; Evan Fonger, D-1; William Forston, D-1; Michael Haddenham, D-1; Patrick Heath, D-1; Frank Hu, D-1; Theodore Hyatt, D-1; Mitchell Kidd, D-1; Ronald Lowndes, D-1; Kevin McCans, D-1; Michael Milligan, D-1; Johnny Olim, D-1; Patrick Owens, D-1; James Poulsen, D-1; Tommy Robinson, D-1; Fritz Sawyer, D-1; Eric Stoker, D-1; Pete Stump, D-1; Timothy Sullivan, D-1; Ryan Swirczek, D-1; Antwon Tellis, D-1; Shannon Thiss, D-1; Bert Van Komen, D-1. Daniel Wait, D-2; Kelli Burgess, D-2; Kevin Comphel, D-2; Scott Estes, D-2; Kenneth Green, D-2; Steven Jerome, D-2; David Linge, D-2; Crystel Montecinos, D-2; Max Shen, D-2; Tom Stratton, D-2.

### Treatment grades 1 & 2

Adam Adamson, T-1; James Ashby, T-1; Evan Fonger, T-1; Tim Gibson, T-1; Mitchell Kidd, T-1; Brett Reed, Jr., T-1; Douglas Sims, T-1; Marty Stoner, T-1; Timothy Sullivan, T-1; Mark Walters, T-1; Dale Wooters, T-1. Samuel Billin, T-2; Kelly Burgess, T-2; Scott Estes, T-2; Dennis Southfield, T-2. ♠

## Meeting reporting and recordkeeping requirements: Is your system in compliance?

By Dana Pennington, Nevada State Health Division

**P**ublic water system operators, managers and staff are busy people, and meeting the expectations of the public, the water board, personnel, contractors and regulatory agencies can be overwhelming. When the dust finally settles, it's easy to overlook requirements that are less pressing. A utility's priority is providing adequate quantities of high quality, safe drinking water to its customers. But complying with Nevada's drinking water reporting and recordkeeping requirements is also essential. Is your system in compliance?

Is your memory a little foggy about the 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 141? Did you know that failure to report information to the Health Division affects your system's compliance? You or your staff sampled all of the system sources for the regulated safe drinking water contaminants as required; but, did the laboratories report the results to the Health Division? Were your reports complete and were all the required contaminants analyzed? Was Form 141A submitted to the Health Division? Was the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) available by July 1, and was a copy mailed to the Health Division? Did the Health Division receive a copy of the public notice that you were required to issue? Did you fail to report any violations of the drinking water regulations? Did you keep copies of sample results, public notices, correspondence and records? If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your system may be violating reporting and record keeping requirements.

### Reporting requirements

☑ **Water sample results**—Copies of all monitoring sample results except lead and copper must be submitted by the tenth day of the

month following your receipt from the laboratory (or sooner).

- ☑ **Monitoring reports**—All surface water systems must report monthly treatment plant performance and turbidity monitoring results by the tenth day of the month following the end of the monthly compliance period.
- ☑ **Lead and copper**—The completed 141A form and sample results must be reported within 10 days after the end of the monitoring period. The period is unique to your system and can be a six month, annual, triennial or longer period.
- ☑ **The CCR**—Water systems must issue the CCR by July 1 each year, and the Health Division must receive a copy of the CCR and the certification form by Sept. 30 every year.
- ☑ **Public notices**—Some public notices must be approved by the

Health Division prior to issuance. The Health Division must receive copies of all public notices within 10 days following issuance.

- ☑ **Violations**—Public water systems must report all violations of the primary drinking water regulations to the Health Division within 48 hours after the violation has occurred. This includes maximum contaminant level and monitoring violations.

By law, all public water systems are required to report certain public drinking water information to the Health Division. Systems must also keep records of all public drinking water samples and other correspondence. Remember to properly report this information, and keep all required records.

If this information was news to you, contact the Health Division for assistance at 775/687-6615.

## The Spigot Q & A

### Disinfection Quiz—part I

Q.1. What type of oxidizing chemical can be used for disinfection?

- a. Chlorine dioxide
- b. Ozone
- c. Iodine
- d. All of the above can be used

Q.2. Chlorine gas is...

- a. Denser than air.
- b. Lighter than air.
- c. Lighter than air only when under pressure.
- d. The same weight by volume as air.

Q.3. Calcium hypochlorite is formulated as a...

- a. Coagulant.
- b. Gas.
- c. Liquid.
- d. Powder.

Q.4. Chlorine leaks in metal containers tend to...

- a. Become larger.
- b. Become smaller.
- c. Remain the same size.
- d. Seal themselves.

The answers to the quiz are on page 6.

Crystel Montecinos, Program Development Specialist with the UNR Cooperative Extension, prepares The Spigot. This disinfection quiz was developed by Skeet Arasmith of Linn-Benton College, Oregon.



## Featured System

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion, which found that the original collection system had outlived its useful life. Many parts of the system had large sections in which the invert of the pipe was missing, which contributed greatly to infiltration during storm events. The main interceptor paralleling an alfalfa field along the approach to the treatment plant was also in very poor condition. It was not uncommon for sewage flows to the plant to triple when the alfalfa fields were being irrigated.

In 1996 the city obtained loans and grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Revolving Loan Fund and the CDBG Program for a total system upgrade.

The project included \$2.1 million for a new 0.6 MGD Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment plant and \$1.8 million to replace 36,000 lineal feet of the existing collection and conveyance system. The new collection system was completed in 1997. The wastewater treatment facility SBR project followed, and the facility was in service in January 2000.



*The City of Lovelock completely upgraded its sewage collection system in 2000. The project included a new 0.6 MGD Sequential Batch Reactor wastewater treatment plant.*

SBRs are relatively simple systems. As the name implies, sewage is stabilized in a batch process. In this environment, treatment conditions can be controlled and to remove nutrients, including phosphates, to very low levels.

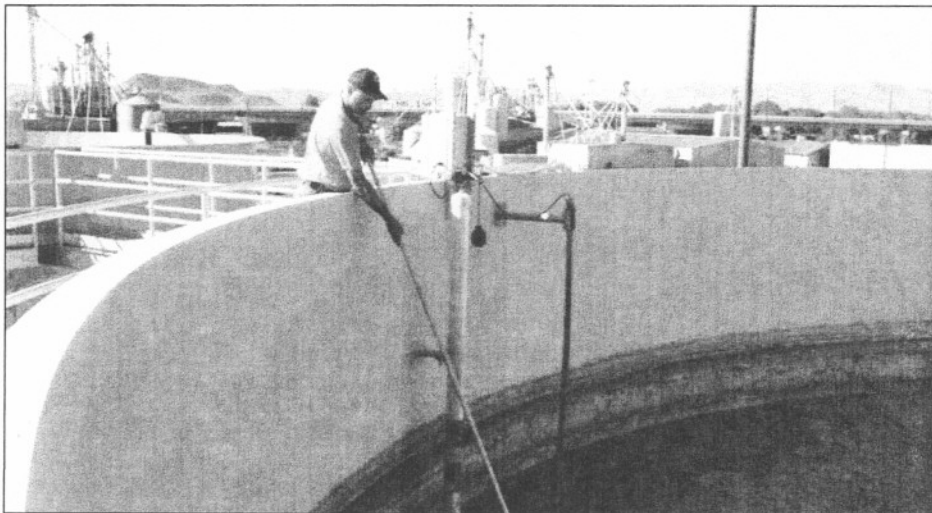
The Lovelock Treatment Facility employs many cost saving benefits as a part of the treatment process. Wastewater treatment is partially accomplished under anoxic conditions.

These periods allow facultative organisms to utilize bound oxygen, thereby reducing the overall cost of mechanical aeration.

Excess solids produced in the SBR facility are treated in a sludge lagoon. When appropriate, sludge lagoons can be a cost effective alternative to conventional solids handling techniques. Solids can be wasted from the treatment process without manpower or expensive dewatering equipment. Wasted solids also undergo anaerobic decomposition, which reduces the solids inventory by more than 50 percent. The treatment plant has routinely produced an effluent BOD and TSS of less than 10-mg/l and Total Nitrogen values of less than 5 mg/l.

Joe Crim is the public works supervisor; he has worked for the city since 1989. Sterling Handley is the new plant operator.

Lovelock also has a new mayor, Lena Johnson. Former mayor Ray Espinosa was one of those responsible for many of Lovelock's infrastructure improvements. ♠



*Public Works Supervisor Joe Crim removes debris from the surface of the number one SBR vessel at the City of Lovelock system; Crim has been with the city since 1989.*

## Board for Financing Water Projects proposes funding eligibility guidelines

By Lisa Thayer, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

The State Board for Financing Water Projects held an arsenic workshop to discuss guidelines for funding arsenic projects. A public meeting will be held before these guidelines are made official; revisions are likely before the board's December meeting.

The board has proposed four basic steps systems must take to be eligible for funding through AB 198.

1. The system must apply for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Priority List.
2. The system must apply and be turned down for an extension for the arsenic rule.
3. The system must have exhausted any other options, including the State Revolving Loan Fund.
4. The system must have raised water rates as much as the community can afford.

Preference will also be given to systems that serve communities of less than 6,000 residents, but each case will be considered individually.

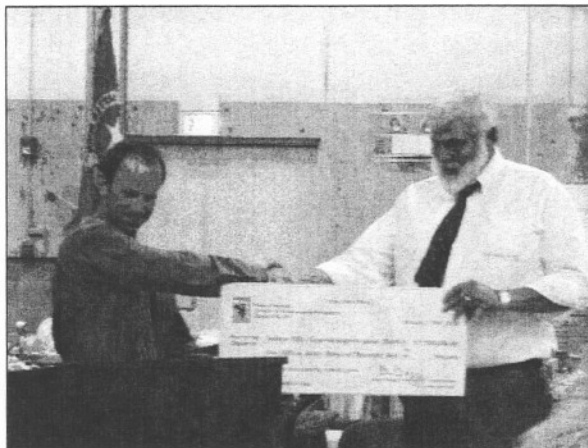
Board members also feel it necessary to have more formal communication between funders, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Com-

munity Development Block Grant, SRF, and AB198, on arsenic removal and its funding. Systems with arsenic contamination that consolidate will be a priority.

For more information, contact Bill Coughlin at 775/687-9422. ♠

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### NDEP awards Indian Hills GID \$1.7 Million DWSRF loan



NDEP administrator Allen Biaggi presents Indian Hills GID General Manager Jim Bentley with a check for \$1.7 million, a low-interest loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The Indian Hills project is one of the first in the state to obtain a DWSRF loan to meet the new arsenic standard of 10 ppm, which goes into effect in 2006.

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## State Board for Financing Water Projects OKs loans, funding, letters of intent

By Lisa Thayer, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

The State Board for Financing Water Projects met in September to approve project funding, letters of intent and loans for a number of Nevada systems.

**Funding:** Round Hill GID for a change of scope; Canyon GID for a change of scope; Willow Creek for revision of funding agreement; Walker Lake for additional funds; and Pershing County Water Conservation District.

**Letters of intent:** Washoe County for Heppner Subdivision; Douglas County for Sierra Estates; Douglas County for Sunrise Estates; and Douglas County for Ridgeview Sewer Extension (SB 200).

**Loans:** Indian Hills General Improvement District for an arsenic and ozonation project; and Virgin Valley for project modification and loan increase.

Indian Hills is the first system to apply for a loan to comply with the 2006 Arsenic Rule. The project encompasses ozonation for color removal and arsenic removal media.

Indian Hills could have applied for an extension on Arsenic Rule compliance. However, the system needs to install a new treatment plant for color removal, and combining the two improvements will save money in the long run.



Douglas County submitted the first letter of intent for a grant under SB 200, a fund specifically for communities NDEP has ordered to abandon their septic systems. Ridgeview has not been ordered to abandon but expects to be by the time it submits a grant application. SB 200 has \$4 million set aside specifically for abandoned septic systems, however, the board is not restricted to \$4 million for this type of project.

Jon Palm also announced that Allen Tinney will take his place as technical assistance provider to the board.

For more information about AB 198 or the State Board for Financing Water Projects, contact Allen Tinney at 775/687-9414. ♠

# RESOURCE ROUND-UP

## Flagger certification courses offered

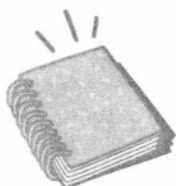
Water distribution professionals may attend Flagger Certification Courses, sponsored by the University of Nevada, Reno, T2 Center Engineering-257.

Courses will be offered in Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Reno, Tonopah and Winnemucca. Participants will learn the importance of flagger positioning, proper signing and dress code, as well as slowing and releasing traffic, the hazards of night time flagging and the proper use of flagger tools. For information and registration, call the UNR T2 Center/257 at 775/784-4414.



## EPA offers water protection brochures

EPA has named November and December 2003 as Water Security Month and is offering Water Watchers, *We Are All in This Together*, a brochure for residents that describes how they can help local authorities protect the water utilities in their communities. EPA also offers *Water Security and You*, a drop-in article for local news media that describes examples of suspicious activity. To download pdfs of the brochures or to order copies, go to <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/security/flyers/index.html>.



## Answers to Disinfection Quiz

1. d; 2. a; 3. d; 4. a.

## Ken Kerri to speak at Nevada Rural Water Association's 2004 Technical & Training Conference

Ken Kerri will be a main speaker at the NvRWA Technical and Training conference March 9-12, 2004 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada.

Conference planners have also tentatively organized an Equipment Rodeo with Cashman Equipment and hands-on displays with Western Nevada Supply.

Hands-on computer classes will be offered, however computers will be limited, so register early. A variety of classes for water, wastewater, solid waste and management will also be offered, and we are working to fit in more classes for office personnel. We will be conducting certification review for water and wastewater operators. The certification tests will be given on Friday, March 12, 2004 at 9 a.m.

## University of Nevada, Reno

*Colleges of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources & Cooperative Extension*

## Videoconference Training Calendar 2004

UNR videoconference classes on water systems operation, maintenance and management — Reno and rural locations — Continuing Education units earned — For information, registration and locations call Crystel Montecinos at 775/784-6853 or email: [xtelle@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:xtelle@cabnr.unr.edu).

## Community College of Southern Nevada Wastewater & Water Technology Program

Info: LeAnna Risso, 702/434-6600 ext. 6418.

## WWET training in Clark County

Info: Gladys Alford, 702/258-3834; see [www.wwet.org](http://www.wwet.org) for a current training calendar.

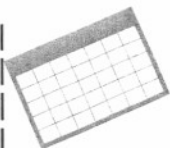
## State of Nevada Water Certification Exams

All exams will be proctored some time during the week of the date listed. Applications are due to the state (Steve Brockway) 30 days before exam dates. A proctor will contact examinees to schedule testing. For 2004, exam dates are March 10, March 12 (special sitting for NvWRA conference) June 9, September 15 and December 15. Info: Debra Kaye, 775/834-8114.

## Wastewater Certification Board testing

Wastewater certification exams are given in March, June, October and December; for locations and information, call 702/433-1498 or go to [www.nvwea.org](http://www.nvwea.org).





# Training Calendar 2003-2004

**December 10**—Hawthorne—NvRWA Arsenic, 8-10 a.m., (2 hours). NvRWA Radon, 10 a.m.-noon, (2 hours); Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 1-3 p.m. (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**December 12**—Reno, Las Vegas, Elko—Videoconference sites for the Operator Certification Advisory Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested may attend. (Earn .10 CEUs for every hour attended.) Info: Steve Brockway, 775/687-6615, ext. 235 or <http://health2k.state.nv.us/bhps/phe/cert.htm>.☼

**December 16**—Carson City—Board for Financing Water Projects Quarterly Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-5p.m. Info: Allen Tinney, Technical Assistant to the Board, e-mail: [atinney@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:atinney@ndep.nv.gov); phone 775/687-9414; or Bill Coughlin, e-mail: [bcoughlin@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:bcoughlin@ndep.nv.gov); phone: 775/687-9422.

**December 17**—Reno, Carson City, Las Vegas, Round Mountain, Wells—UNR Videoconference Workshop, Basic Water Chemistry for Water System Operators, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., (2 hours), approved for 2 contact hours of continuing education. Info: Crystel Montecinos, 775/784-6853.

**December 17**—Pioche—NvRWA Consumer Confidence Reports, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

## 2004

**January 7**—Round Mountain & Hadley—NvRWA Consumer Confidence Reports, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**January 20**—Reno—RCAC Using QuickBooks. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

**January 21**—Pahrump—NvRWA Solid Waste Management/Groundwater Protection, 1 - 3 p.m., (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**January 29**—Laughlin—NvRWA Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**February 19**—Pahrump—NvRWA Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**February 26**—Fallon—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 - Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

**March 9-12**—Sparks—NvRWA annual technical conference. Info: 775/783-7225.☼

**March 11**—Sparks—Operator Certification Advisory Board Meeting, 9 a.m. in the Washoe Room at John Ascuaga's Nugget in conjunction with the Nevada Rural Water Association Technical Conference. Anyone interested may attend. (Earn .10 CEUs for every hour attended.) Info: Steve Brockway, 775/687-6615, ext. 235.☼

\* Please note that one hour of training is .1 ceu.

**March 11**—Sparks—Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition board meeting in conjunction with the Nevada Rural Water Association Technical Conference. Operators encouraged to attend; 1:45 p.m. Info: Bob Foerster, 775/783-7225.

**March 22-24**—Portland, OR—RCAC national rural development conference. Info: 916/447-2854.

**March 24-26**—Reno—Nevada Water Environment Association Annual Conference. Info: <http://www.nvwea.org/>

**April 13-16**—Las Vegas—CA-NV-AWWA 2004 Spring Conference. Info: [www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org).

**April 22**—Las Vegas—RCAC Understanding financial statements, budgets and audits. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

**May 13-14**—Eureka—RCAC Water Fair: Funding options for small communities; capital improvement planning, rate setting and budget analysis, financial management of a small utility. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

**May 27**—Las Vegas—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 - Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

**August 26**—Elko—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 , Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.



## Meet Us in Portland, Oregon!

### The RCAC 2004 Conference

**March 22-24, 2004**

**Sharing Our Gifts:  
Celebrating Our Diversity**

Mark your calendar for March 22-24, 2004 to attend the RCAC 2004 Conference in Portland, Oregon. The Conference will feature sessions on:

- Rural policy
- Water systems management and operations
- Organizational management and operations
- Financing & tax credits
- Leveraging resources
- And much more!

Visit our web site at [www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org) for more details. Call RCAC at 916/447-2854 to be added to our conference mailing list. See you in Portland! ☼

☼ This symbol designates training pre-approved by the Nevada State Health Division for continuing education units (CEU) credit. Other training may be eligible for CEUs but is not yet pre-approved. Before attending any training, contact the Health Division at 775/687-6615 ext. 235 for approval. Ten hours of approved training equals 1 CEU. A different ratio applies for safety training. Contact Steve Brockway at 775/687-6615 ext.235 for details.

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## Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition

### American Water Works Association California/Nevada Section

[www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)

Philip Walsack, Smaller Utilities

Committee Chair, 775/841-3131

Nicole Schreuder, Education Mgr., 909/291-2101

### Indian Health Service

Dominic Wolf, 775/784-5327

### Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

[www.ndep.nv.gov/index.htm](http://www.ndep.nv.gov/index.htm)

Adele Basham, DWSRF, 775/687-9488

Bill Coughlin, AB 198 Water Grant Program,  
775/687-9422

Nevan Kane, Wellhead Protection,  
775/687-9426

### Nevada Rural Water Association

[www.nvrwa.org](http://www.nvrwa.org)

John Allred, 888/884-2055

Jon Anderson, 888/884-2055

Curtis Duff, 888/884-2055

Bob Foerster, 775/721-7972

Georgia Greenrod, 888/884-2055

David Miller, 888/884-2055

John Scovil, 888/884-2055

### Nevada State Health Division

[www.state.nv.us/health/bhps](http://www.state.nv.us/health/bhps)

775/687-6615

Jim Balderson, SWAP, ext. 228

Steve Brockway, CEU approval, ext. 235

Galen Denio, ext. 229

Dana Pennington, ext. 237

### Nevada Water Environment Association

[www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)

Starlin Jones, 775/861-4104

Eric Leveque, 702-792-3711

### Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

[www.state.nv.us/puc](http://www.state.nv.us/puc)

Steve McGoff, Utility Engineer, 775/687-6040

### Rural Community Assistance Corporation

[www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org)

John Dailey, 775/882-8887

Abby Johnson, 775/882-0296

Steve Palmer, 775/882-8887

Lisa Thayer, 775/882-8887

Jean Thompson, 775/882-8887

### U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency, Region 9

[www.epa.gov/region09](http://www.epa.gov/region09)

Marvin Young, 415/972-3561

### USDA-Rural Development

[www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm)

Mike Holm, 775/887-1222, ext. 26

Kay Vernatter, 702/262-9047 ext. 113

### University of Nevada, Reno

Dept. of Civil Engineering

Dean Adams, 775/784-1474

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### UNR Environmental & Resource Sciences and Nevada Cooperative Extension

[www.unce.unr.edu/swp](http://www.unce.unr.edu/swp)

Crystal Montecinos, 775/784-6853

Mark Walker, 775/784-1938

### Water/Wastewater Education and Training Consortium of Southern Nevada — WWET

[www.wwet.org](http://www.wwet.org)

Marie Pollack, Chair, 702/298-3113

Gladys Alford, Registrar, 702/258-3834

### NDWWTC Board Members

#### 2003-2005

Bob Foerster, Chair

775/783-7225

[foerster1@pyramid.net](mailto:foerster1@pyramid.net)

Dean Adams

775/784-1474

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**Rural Community Assistance Corporation**

**3120 Freeboard Drive, Suite 201**

**West Sacramento, CA 95691**

Nonprofit Org.

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**Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition**

*Water Lines*

**Winter 2003-2004**



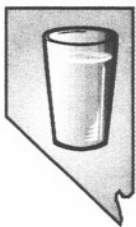
This issue of *Water Lines* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.





# Water Lines Special Insert

## Sources of Infrastructure Financing and Assistance for Rural Nevada's Water and Wastewater Systems



### Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program assists in the development of healthy and viable communities by improving both the living conditions and economic opportunities for individuals, primarily those that are low- and moderate-income. CDBG coordinates and collaborates with various government agencies and non-profit groups to carry out locally based projects. Staff conducts regional application and grant administration workshops. Grants are provided to rural communities (outside of Clark County, Reno and Sparks) for public facilities/services, planning, economic development and housing.

Project selection is made through an advisory committee, representative of the 27 eligible counties and incorporated cities. The advisory committee meets annually to review applications and make funding recommendations.

Historically, CDBG has funded the following types of projects: water and sewer systems; preliminary engineering reports; senior citizens centers; community centers; emergency vehicles and stations; short and long range plans; rehabilitation of owner-occupied single family homes; infrastructure improvements to industrial parks; and business loans to for-profit businesses.

**Contact:**

Gene Etcheverry at 775/687-1812

**E-mail:**

[cdbg2@bizopp.state.nv.us](mailto:cdbg2@bizopp.state.nv.us)

### Indian Health Service

This agency offers technical and financial assistance for tribes seeking to address health and safety needs related to water, wastewater and solid waste. Community-wide and individual assistance is available.

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### Nevada Department of Business and Industry

The director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry may finance the cost of a water project approved by the Board for Financing Water Projects through the issuance of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. A qualified project would be one that provides for the management, control, delivery, use or distribution of water.

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Updated December, 2003



## **Nevada Division of Environmental Protection AB 198 Water Grant Program**

In 1991, the Nevada State Legislature created a program that provides grants to water purveyors for costs of capital improvements to publicly-owned community water systems in order to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible projects include water treatment facilities, replacement of leaky distribution and transmission lines, elimination of dead end distribution lines, spring rehabilitation, new well pump installation as needed to replace poor quality water sources, provision of backup water supply and storage tank rehabilitation.

The Board to Finance Water Projects makes AB 198 funding decisions. Grant awards are no less than 57.1 percent and no more than 87 percent of project cost. Grant funds are to be used to assist the most needy communities, allowing these systems to maintain user costs at a reasonable level.

**Contact:**

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**Website:**

[www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/finboard.htm](http://www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/finboard.htm)

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## **Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund**

The revolving loan program provides loans at or below market rate and other forms of financial assistance (not grants) to municipalities to assist them in financing the construction of wastewater treatment works and projects to control sources of water pollution. Eligible projects include sewage treatment plants, collection systems, interceptors, erosion control and other point and non-point source control projects.

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## **Nevada Rural Water Association**

The Nevada Rural Water Association (NvRWA) provides water, wastewater and environmental programs statewide including the Ground Water Protection Program, the Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program and the Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program, and Solid Waste management.

The Ground Water Protection Program helps small water systems and rural communities to design and implement individual ground water (wellhead) protection plans locally. This program is designed to initiate preventive measures at the local level to prevent contamination, prevent noncompliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), lessen the financial burden on consumers and prevent degradation of drinking water for future generations. This assistance is delivered through NvRWA with input from water system personnel and state regulatory agencies.

The Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program is managed and operated by NvRWA. The program provides on-site assistance to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) water and wastewater system borrowers and/or potential borrowers. Circuit Riders provide assistance and training to systems in all areas of management, operation and maintenance to ensure financial viability for repayment of RUS loans.

The Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program is a national grassroots effort to assist systems in solving compliance problems. It is operated by NvRWA and provides training and on-site assistance to both member and nonmember systems operators in formal classroom sessions with follow up, onsite assistance in SDWA compliance, public health protection relating to drinking water, and managerial, financial and operational issues.

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**Website:**

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## Financing and Assistance



### Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The primary purpose of the DWSRF program is to provide loans to public water systems at or below market rates. All community water systems, whether publicly or privately owned, and non-profit, non-community water systems are potentially eligible to receive DWSRF loans. Projects considered for loans are ranked on a priority list to address acute and chronic health risks and replace or rehabilitate deteriorating water system infrastructure. Existing debt (for publicly owned systems) is also eligible for refinancing under certain conditions. The SDWA requires that at least 15 percent of the loan fund be used to provide loan assistance to small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 persons, if there are enough eligible projects for systems meeting that criteria.

The principal repayments on loans go back into the loan fund for use on financing future projects. Interest repayments are used to retire state bonds issued for the 20 percent match requirement for the EPA grant.

The DWSRF provides technical assistance to public water systems to address a variety of public health, technical, managerial and financial concerns. This assistance is free to public water systems and is available through third party providers who contract with the State of Nevada to provide specific services.

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**E-mail:**

abasham@ndep.nv.gov

**Website:**

[www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/dwsrf01.htm](http://www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/dwsrf01.htm)

### Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) provides staff and resources to help rural communities identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, assists in preparation of applications for infrastructure loans and grants, and provides assistance in the operation and maintenance of existing systems.

RCAC also operates a \$50 million revolving loan fund lending to other nonprofit agencies as well as public agencies for projects whose beneficiaries are 51 percent rural, low-income, tribal, agricultural workers or other disadvantaged persons. Primarily, RCAC is a gap lender, making non-bankable loans and developing innovative lending programs and products to help serve the financial needs of rural communities and disadvantaged populations. Lending programs include short-term loans for affordable housing and environmental infrastructure as well as short- and long-term loans for community facilities (health care, domestic violence shelters, adult day health care, child care, social service providers) serving rural, low-income areas.

**Contact:**

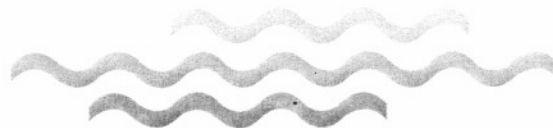
John Dailey at 775/882-8887

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[www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org)

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**Financing  
and  
Assistance****U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development**

This federal agency assists communities with water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste management needs and provides loans and grant funding to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Indian tribes and non-profit corporations. Entities must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms and be able to pledge security for the loans. Loans and grants may be used for the construction of infrastructure improvements, acquisition of water supply or water rights, purchase of utility systems and payment of necessary fees associated with facility improvements. USDA-Rural Development also offers technical assistance with assembling information for preliminary engineering reports, feasibility reports, cost estimates, and financing and management matters in connection with proposed improvements and provides training and assistance through other programs as well.

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**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service**

The Forest Service offers annual Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Grants and National Fire Plan Economic Action Grants. The RCA program provides planning grants to help rural communities capitalize on their potential to diversify and expand local economies, and implementation grants based on the community action plan. The National Fire Plan Economic Action Program encourages the use of biomass including marketing and demonstration projects. While not directly applicable to infrastructure funding, these grant sources may free up or leverage other funds for infrastructure improvement.

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**U.S. Department of Commerce,  
Economic Development Administration**

This program provides grant funding for development, expansion or improvements which are needed to enable economic development. The funding is tied to, and based upon, the creation of new or saved jobs for the community, and requires a comprehensive economic development strategy.

All projects requesting EDA funding in the 7-county WNDD region are prioritized, processed and submitted by and through the WNDD Board of Directors. (See WNDD below.)

For projects outside of the WNDD area, call the EDA representative at 888/693-1370 (toll free) or 208/334-1521.

**Western Nevada  
Development District (WNDD)**

For projects in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing or Storey Counties and area tribal governments, WNDD is a voluntary association of local governments which, through intergovernmental cooperation, addresses community and economic development issues and opportunities. WNDD serves its membership as a regional resource center, a State Data Center affiliate and provides shared professional staff to provide planning, implementation and technical assistance including grant writing and grant administration.

WNDD operates its own "mini-grant" Membership Assistance Program (MAP) for member local governments and nonprofit organizations within the 7-county region. Funding is limited: MAP funds can represent no more than 50 percent of total project costs. WNDD also administers affordable housing funds for the county region.

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